

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF GEORGIA

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JAN 06 2003
Darrell H. Shadd
DEPUTY CLERK U.S. DISTRICT COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF GEORGIA

In the Matter of

ADOPTING A POLICY ON SENSITIVE
INFORMATION AND PUBLIC ACCESS
TO ELECTRONIC CASE FILES

Standing Order Number 2002-01

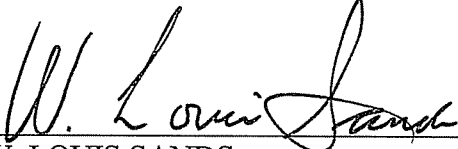
ORDER

In compliance with the policy of the Judicial Conference of the United States, and in order to make most civil pleadings available online over the Internet through our Public Access to Court Electronic Records (PACER) program, the Court adopts this Standing Order. This Standing Order protects sensitive information of litigants appearing in the United States District Court while providing for a more efficient access to court case files through the imaging of documents into the Court's computer system. Accordingly, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. In compliance with the policy of the Judicial Conference of the United States, and in order to promote public electronic access to case files while also protecting sensitive information and other legitimate interests, parties shall refrain from including or shall redact where inclusion is necessary, the following personal identifiers from all pleadings and other civil papers filed with the Court, including exhibits thereto, whether filed electronically or in paper, unless otherwise ordered by the Court:
 - a. Social Security Numbers. If an individual's social security number must be included, only the last four digits of that number should be used.
 - b. Names of minor children. If the involvement of a minor child must be mentioned, only the initials of that child should be used.
 - c. Dates of birth. If an individual's date of birth must be included in a pleading, only the year should be used.

- d. Financial Account Numbers. If financial account numbers are relevant, only the last four digits of these numbers should be used.
2. The responsibility for omitting or redacting these personal identifiers rest solely with counsel and the parties. The Clerk will not review filings for compliance with this rule. Counsel and the parties are cautioned that failure to redact these personal identifiers may subject them to sanctions or other disciplinary proceedings as appropriate.
3. A party having a legitimate need for the above information may obtain it through the ordinary course of discovery without further order of the Court.
4. Social Security cases shall be excluded from electronic public access.
5. Criminal cases shall presently be excluded from electronic public access.
6. This policy in no way creates a private right of action against the Court, the Clerk of the Court, counsel or any other individual or entity on behalf of any individual or entity that may have identifying information erroneously included in a filed document that is made available on the Internet via PACER.
7. This Order does not limit the application of Rule 11 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure for any willful or deliberate violation of this Order.

It is SO ORDERED, this 31st day of December, 2002.



W. LOUIS SANDS
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE